

AUSTIN FLAYS POLICIES OF DEMOCRATS AND DECLARES HAWAII CANNOT POSSIBLY EXIST UNDER PROPOSED FREE SUGAR LAW

Tennessee Congressman Who Visited Territory With Party Last May Writes Long Article on Conditions in Islands as He Found Them—Competition With Cuban Planters Impossible, He Declares

"What the United States owes the Hawaiian Islands" is the title of the second of a series of newspaper articles by Congressman R. W. Austin of Tennessee, now being widely circulated by mainland newspapers. Mr. Austin, who with his wife and daughter came to Hawaii last May with the congressional party and later went on to the Philippines, is writing a series of articles called "An American Congressman in the Orient."

The main contention made by the fiery Tennessee Democrat, who recently stirred up the Philippines by declaring that the United States would never give up the Philippine Islands, is that the mainland owes Hawaii a protective tariff on sugar, without which, he declares, prosperity is an impossibility in this territory.

Mr. Austin's article on Hawaii follows:

First Hand Information.

Last week I gave out for publication to the American press my observations on the Philippine Islands, and in this letter will take up the Hawaiian Islands, having spent some time there gathering first-hand information from the citizens, officials, businessmen and commercial organizations. I traveled over the islands inspecting sugar and pineapple plantations, schools, colleges, military camps and fortifications.

This new American territory is composed of a group of eight inhabited islands, covering 6,449 square miles, or 4,109,000 acres, exceeding by 166 square miles the states of Connecticut and Rhode Island, and the District of Columbia. The 1910 census gave the two states and the District of Columbia a combined population of 1,988,415, and the Hawaiian Islands, 151,909.

The islands were annexed by the United States as a territory on July 7, 1898, during President McKinley's first term, and after his death, his predecessor, Mr. Cleveland, had refused to accept them and, in fact, exhausted his influence to restore the monarchy. Of the many wise and beneficial pieces of legislation enacted during the administration of the martyred president there were two which stand at the head of the list; the taking over of the Hawaiian Islands, and the substitution of the Dingley protective tariff measure for the Cleveland-Wilson destructive law which had paralyzed and destroyed business prosperity in the United States in the same manner the Wilson-Underwood tariff law has been doing since its enactment.

The inhabitants of the islands cannot be compared with the natives of the Philippine Islands, as the former are more highly civilized, more progressive and thoroughly in sympathy with America. In agricultural, educational and business development the Hawaiian Islands are abreast of any section in the United States and far in the lead of many, and this is especially true of the enterprising American daily papers published in Honolulu. In 1820 the capital city, Honolulu, had a population of only 3,000. In 1886 it had increased to 12,000, with adobe and grass houses. Today it has 60,000, with every modern municipal improvement—gas, electric lights, street railroads, sewers, water works, telephones, telegraphs, cable and wireless systems, efficient police and fire department, parks, modern wholesale and retail stores and beautiful homes—an honest, progressive city government headed by a popular and able mayor, a native Hawaiian, Hon. John C. Lane.

Public Buildings.

Its public buildings, churches, educational institutions, Y. M. C. A., civil and social organizations, business corporations, public utilities, banks, clubs, hotels, public and private, the new city of Honolulu with those of any city of domestic size in the United States or any other country. One of the leading hotels, the Alexander Young, was recently completed at a cost of \$2,000,000, all the material coming from the states, Knoxville, Tennessee, furnishing marble to the value of \$150,000. The citizens cannot be excelled in public spirit, in city and territorial team work and in true genuine hospitality.

The representative of the islands in the American Congress is a native of royal descent, member of the first reigning family—the Honorable J. K. Kahanalana, a modest, earnest, faithful representative of the people, enjoying the good-will and friendship of his colleagues in Congress. The new territorial official, Governor L. E. Pinkham and Hon. W. W. Thayer, are able, active and industrious officials and, in their work of promoting the interest of the islands, have the enthusiastic cooperation of two real live business organizations, the Ad Club and the Chamber of Commerce of Honolulu.

Deleat Kahanalana and Mayor Lane are creditable representatives of the native Hawaiians, who, along with all the rest of their race, led by the good Queen Liliuokalani, now 77 years of age, long ago became reconciled to being a part of the great American republic, are contented, happy and rejoice at and appreciate the countless blessings the islands have received since becoming a part of the United States. Unlike the policy politicians

of Manila, they are not clamoring for a restoration of the monarchy, or so called "independence." They are wise enough to know when they have a good thing and how to appreciate it. However, it goes without saying that along with the rest of their fellow Americans—Democrats and Republicans—they are at a loss to understand the consistency of the Wilson administration in removing Americans from office in the Philippines and filling the vacancies with Filipinos, while in the Hawaiian Islands the policy is to fill vacancies by going to far-off South Carolina for a Honolulu postmaster, to Mississippi for a collector of the port and to Tennessee for a United States district attorney.

The natives in the Philippines must rule and have the offices, but the natives and other Americans in the Hawaiian Islands must be ignored and officials imported from the states.

Debt Many Times Repaid.
Upon the annexation, the United States government assumed and has since paid the then existing indebtedness incurred by the Republic of Hawaii which succeeded the monarchy, the amount being \$3,241,400.

During the past fourteen years the people of the islands have paid into the treasury of the United States the following:

Customs receipts \$15,610,588
Internal Revenue taxes..... 1,709,738

Total \$17,320,326

The total of postal receipts would add several millions of additional dollars, and thus prove that Uncle Sam made no mistake in acquiring and keeping his grip over the islands. The amount of internal revenue tax collected the first year under the jurisdiction of the United States was \$7,450, while last year (1914) it was \$246,754, or an increase of \$239,304. During this same period, the American business men have disposed of \$240,867,132 of goods made in our mills, workshops, etc., to the people of the islands, out of a total importation of \$301,369,196. The year prior to annexation, the total imports and exports footed up to \$23,704,000, and in 1914 they had risen to \$77,144,339.

Last year the amount purchased in the United States was \$29,267,699, and \$6,285,359 from our foreign competitors. Of the last-named amount, \$2,408,000 covers purchases made in Japan, and the value of goods Japan bought last year in the Hawaiian Islands was only \$45,268, leaving a trade balance against the islands in favor of Japan of \$2,453,738. Japan's sales in the islands in 1900 were \$647,395, while 1914 shows an increase of \$1,805,390 over her imports fifteen years ago. Practically all of Japan's exports to the islands are made up of cotton goods. Though the United States produces raw cotton and is supposed to have a tariff in the interest of its cotton manufacturers, here is Japan, an importer of raw cotton, with her cheap labor—ten cents to twenty-two cents per day working ten to eleven hours per day—entering an American home market and underselling our cotton manufacturers just as she has succeeded under the present low tariff in disposing of goods in the Philippine Islands amounting in 1914 to \$3,633,642, made up almost entirely of cotton goods. With northern and southern cotton mills in America closed down or running on reduced time, and thousands of their employees idle and without work during the past two years under the new tariff law, we see Japan entering two of our insular possessions and selling goods in twenty-four months to the value of more than \$13,500,000, and practically all cotton goods, and covering the same period, cotton goods sold in the United States by our foreign competitors reached \$105,211,310.

Why Look Elsewhere?

There are members of Congress who voted for the present low duties on imported cotton goods along with many writers in newspapers and magazines, now advising and urging our cotton manufacturers to seek a market in South America and elsewhere. Well, if we could not meet foreign competition at home on our own shores in the sale of cotton goods to the value of \$105,211,310 in 1913 and 1914, how can we have any better success thousands of miles away with extra brokerage, transportation and other charges, not to mention longer time in payment of the goods? Why not pass tariff laws under which the amount, \$70,000,000, we now send annually abroad for foreign made cotton goods can be spent in America—starting up some of our closed mills and giving employment to thousands of idle men and women?

While on this subject of the tariff and its importance to the cotton industry and writing about the Hawaiian Islands, which have proven so far the most valuable asset the United States have secured in about half a century, it will not be amiss to state that a tariff duty on sugar is absolutely essential to the prosperity and industrial life of the people of these islands. The following embraces the list of leading agricultural products—sugar, pineapples, coffee and rice—sugar and pineapples constituting 91.79 per cent of the crop output, 79.81 per cent sugar and 11.98 per cent canned pineapples. It requires from eighteen to thirty-six months to raise a crop of sugar, and the cost of irrigation and fertilization is essential and exceedingly costly, the last item in 1914 amounting to \$3,500,000. As to the cost of sugar and pineapple farm or plantation unskilled labor, it is not only high, but greater than is paid for farm labor in a majority of the states of the American union. The minimum wage is \$20.00 per month, average wage \$26.00 per

month. In addition they are furnished a house, water, fuel and medical attendance, estimated to cost employers \$5.00 per laborer. Then there is a bonus paid the laborers, which, for two years and ten months ending October 31, 1914, was 19 per cent of their earnings. The bonus earned from November 1, 1914 to April 30, 1915, was 17 per cent. In 1910, Japanese farm workers inaugurated a strike for higher wages.

Farm Laborers Fare Well.

According to a recent report issued by the Japanese department of finance for 1914, farm laborers are paid \$8.90 a month, about four times less than they receive for the same work in the Hawaiian Islands. Under a decree of President Wilson, the Democrats in Congress—his recording machine—ordered sugar on the free list after May 1, 1916—after that date absolutely no legislative protection is to be given that extensive industry in the United States or in Porto Rico, the Hawaiian or the Philippine Islands, where the industry means the very existence of agricultural life, for no other profitable crop can be substituted. There are at present receiving the wages mentioned on sugar plantations in the Hawaiian Islands 44,960 laborers. You can fully understand how essential the constant employment of these people at good wages is to the continued peace, welfare, prosperity and happiness of this American territory with a total population of only 225,000, a territory which, since annexation in 1898, has proven to be our best, most valuable customer in proper proportion to what we have in all the world. In addition to the annual business of \$25,000,000 which they give the merchants and businessmen in the United States, the amount they annually contribute to our national treasury in postal business, custom house duties and internal revenue taxes runs annually into millions. Last year Honolulu expended \$100,000 for an armory for the use of a creditable and efficient force constituting a part of our National Guard for service whenever needed by our government.

It is utterly impossible for the Hawaiian sugar planters, with American wages and standard of living, costly fertilization and irrigation, distances from the American market to compete with the sugar planters of Cuba, who have a soil needing neither irrigation nor fertilizers, where the same matured in a shorter time and planting is not required as often. The cost of Hawaiian production of sugar laid down in the American market in 1914—New York—where Cuban sugar is met and the refineries are located was \$53.654 per ton, and the average cost per year for the last five years was \$58.918 per ton. In addition to the advantages in the cost of labor, fertility of soil and methods of cultivation, the Cuban planters pay \$6.25 per ton less to transport a ton of sugar to New York, where the raw sugar must be purified and refined before being placed on the market. It is just as impossible for the Louisiana sugar planters and beet sugar farmers of our western states to compete with the producers of Cuban sugar without a protection tariff as it is for the Hawaiian sugar planters.

It Means Destruction.

Sugar on the free list means the destruction of this industry, not only in our insular possessions, but in the United States. After May 1, 1916, our country will be the only one without a tax on sugar, and even free trade England levies a tariff or duty on it. The Wilson idea about placing sugar on the free list was to reduce expenses and thereby keep that pledge in the Baltimore platform promising a reduction in the cost of living. The new tariff law reduced the duty on sugar twenty-five per cent on March 1, 1914, and yet sugar is higher today than it was before this twenty-five per cent reduction became effective. After sugar goes on the free list, May 1, 1916, the American consumer will in a short time discover the price of sugar advanced. After the sugar refiners—large owners of Cuban sugar lands—who for years swindled the United States government out of millions in tariff duties for which they were convicted, paralyze and destroy their competitors, the sugar planters in Louisiana, in our insular possessions and the best sugar producers in the western states, the price of domestic sugar will be advanced and the treasury of the United States will lose an annual sugar tariff income of \$50,000,000 at a time when there is a government deficiency somewhere between \$65,000,000 and \$100,000,000. The consumer not only did not profit by the twenty-five per cent reduction on sugar last year, but the treasury lost during the first month when it was badly needed in customs duties \$2,479,358. Should we make the refiners a further present at the expense of a depleted treasury amounting to the magnificent sum of \$50,000,000 per annum or make them continue to pay it to the United States to aid in meeting the enormous and ever-increasing expenses of the government of the United States and at the same time protect and encourage the great sugar industry in the Hawaiian Islands and in the United States? Recently the secretary of commerce, Mr. Redfield, had an investigation as to the high cost of living, and the result showed that out of a list of fifteen necessary articles going on our tables, sugar was the only one that did not show an increase in price, but on the contrary a reduction. Congress should lose no time in repealing the free sugar folly, which will not benefit the people but will increase the great riches of the selfish sugar trust at the expense of the

PUNAHOU READY FOR OPENING OF HER 75TH YEAR

Punahou will open in all departments next Monday morning at 9 o'clock. Chapel exercises will be held at both schools at that hour.

At the academy William T. Rawlins, president of the Punahou Alumni Association, will speak, calling attention to the fact that this is the year of the 75th anniversary of the founding of the school. The alumni, led by President Rawlins, is enthusiastically planning for an appropriate celebration and for making the year one of the best in the history of the school.

There will be special music, and E. H. Ideler, the new violinist at the school, will play. At the preparatory besides the music, consisting of violin selections by Mr. Ideler, W. W. Chamberlain, one of the new members of the board of trustees, will speak.

After the chapel exercises the day will be devoted to registering, getting the necessary books and supplies and getting the lessons for the regular work for the school year, which will begin on Tuesday morning.

The entrance examinations took place yesterday and today. A large number of candidates applied for admission. These include students both from the coast and from local schools. It is expected that a good many students who have been to the coast for the summer will be late in entering school. Most of these are expected on the Matsunos, which will arrive Tuesday morning.

TEACHERS ON HAWAII MAY NOT WRITE TO SUPERVISORS NOW

(Special Star-Bulletin Correspondence)

HILO, Sept. 10.—In the future individual school teachers who are in charge of government educational institutions will not be allowed to pen letters to the board of supervisors asking for this or that improvement, addition or any other thing that may strike their fancy. In the past hundreds of letters have been forwarded to the supervisors asking for all sorts of things, and making all sorts of suggestions. This has resulted in a great waste of time, and, in many instances in all sorts of trouble and added expense to the county which provides the school buildings.

It has been decided that, in future any teacher who has a suggestion to request to make shall forward the supervising principal of the district. The supervising principal will then pay the school a visit and, if he thinks something should be done as requested, a communication will be sent by him to the board of supervisors.

treasury of the United States and at the cost of the industrial system of the honest farmers in Louisiana and the western states and the planters in the Hawaiian Islands, who have always contributed their full share in upbuilding and making prosperous a deserving people and furnishing a valuable increasing and over-reliable market for American made goods.

War Saved Industry.

The European war has saved and kept alive our sugar industry from the first cut of twenty-five per cent in the tariff duty and the anticipation of the total abolition of the duty. Germany stands first and Austria third in the list of sugar-producing countries, and these at present are out of the sugar business. Prior to the war, twelve sugar beet factories on account of the action of Congress closed down, and the Louisiana-sugar farmers were seeking if possible the substitution of another less profitable crop. In Honolulu, the day has dawned of the sale of a large local sugar company and plantation to a party of Japanese. The explanation was, the owners knew after the close of the war in Europe and the removal of all duty—the placing of sugar on the free list on May 1, 1916—means bankruptcy to compete with the Cuban sugar planters. This first sale of a sugar plant is but the forerunner of what will happen to this splendid American industry, unless Congress repeals the free sugar law. If free sugar permanently remains, the industry will in our insular possessions fall into the hands of aliens, our deserving people crowded out and our local or export trade to Porto Rico, the Hawaiian and the Philippine Islands will be done by our foreign competitors.

The American people have certainly been cheated, punished—paid a fearful penalty—for the folly of electing a free trade educated theorist to the presidency, along with a subservient Congress ever ready to do his bidding.

Desiring to close this letter, with something pleasant and give the reader a true picture of the Hawaiian Islands made with the pen of our own beloved and never-to-be-forgotten Mark Twain, I quote his just and beautiful tribute:

"No alien land in all the world has any deep, strong charm for me but that one; no other land could so longingly and beseechingly haunt me sleeping and waking, through half a lifetime, as that one has done. Other things leave me, but it abides; other things change, but it remains the same. For me its balmy airs are always blowing, its summer seas flashing in the sun; the pulsing of its surf beat is in my ear; I can see its garlanded crags, its reaping cascades, its plummy palms drowsing by the shore; its remote summits floating like islands above the cloud-rack; I can feel the spirit of its woodland solitudes; I can hear the splash of its brooks; in my nostrils still lives the breath of flowers that perished twenty years ago."

R. W. AUSTIN,
Member of Congress,
2nd District, Tennessee.



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A despatch from Ottawa states that plans are being considered for the merger of the Royal Bank and the Bank of Hamilton, Ont.

Steps were taken at a meeting at Toledo, O., to bring about a state-wide movement to organize machinists for an eight-hour day.

The concession of the Mexican Oil Co. owned in the United States, was revoked by Mexican authorities at Vera Cruz, and the deposit confiscated.

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